



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION NO. .... 10/700,767  
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ART UNIT ..... 3731  
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. .... 47563.0009  
TITLE ..... VASCULAR INSERTION SHEATH WITH STIFFENED TIP

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

To: Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
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This communication is intended to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated 15 June 2006, concerning the above-identified patent application.

**Amendments to the Abstract** are presented as a new abstract attached to this document to replace the previously submitted abstract.

**Listing of the Claims** begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows. Applicants have used the convention underline to indicate added text and ~~strike through~~ to indicate deleted text.